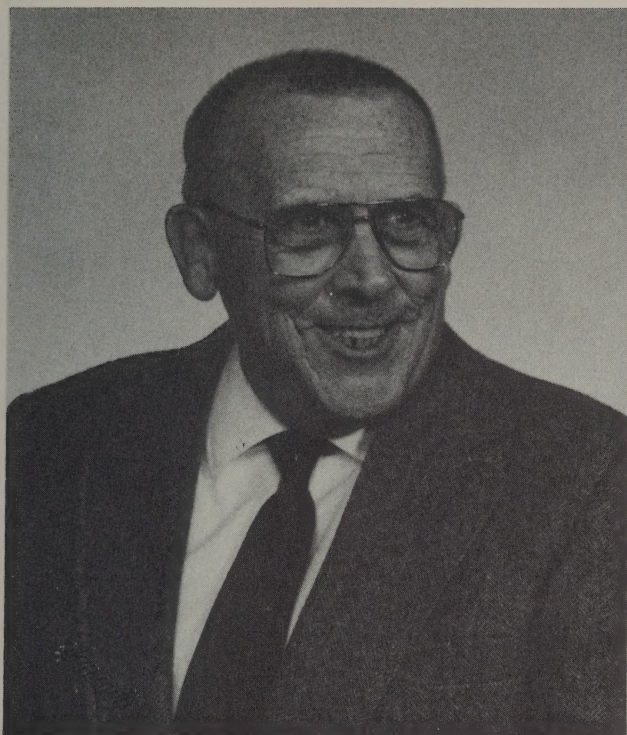


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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS
OF

MASON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

For The Year Ending December 31

1996

To our good friend
Cliff Hastings
we dedicate with considerable
pride and sincere gratitude
our 1996 Mason Town Report

Cover photo of Selectman Hastings, by Olin Mills Studios, Manchester, N.H.

Thanks to SeaChange Technology for use of their computer equipment for the preparation of this report.
This report was available in 8 1/2 by 11 format on 28-FEB-97 at 23:00 Hrs.

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS
OF
MASON,
NEW HAMPSHIRE
1996**

Printed By Athol Press, Inc.

INDEX

Appointed Town Officers	6
Auditors Report	30
Balance Sheet	23
Bonds	24
Budget, Town Appropriations	12
Building Inspector's Report	31
Cemetery Report	38
Conservation Commission Report	34
Elected Town Officers	5
Fire Department Report	32
First Responder Report	32
Forestry Committee Report	40
Highway Department Report	28
Home Health Care and Community Services	35
Library Report	36
Mason History	45
Planning Board Report	30
Police Department Report	29
Presidential Primary	44
Selectmen's Report	3
State Biennial Primary 1996	44
State General Election 1996	43
Statement of Appropriations & Expenses	22
Summary of Valuation	24
Tax Collector's Report	26
Tax Rate	24
Town Clerk's Report	27
Town Meeting 1996	40
Town Office Hours	4
Town Warrant	8
Treasurer's Report	23
Trustee of Trust Funds Report	25
Vital Statistics	38
War Service Tax Credit	24
Wilton Recycling Center	31

SELECTMEN'S REPORT - 1996

The year 1996 was a very quiet one for the Selectmen and their Administrative Assistant Barbara. One might say merely business as usual. The Selectmen tried to meet the needs of the citizens and their various problems and requests within the RSAs (Revised Statutes Annotated) to the best of our ability. The decisions made in most cases were favorable. Some, however, resulted in the citizens being disappointed.

The Selectmen accepted Clifton Hastings' resignation from the Board of Selectmen, with sadness and regret. We extend many thanks to Cliff for his years of service on the Board of Selectmen. We will miss him. Kenneth Greene was appointed to fulfill Cliff's term of office.

The Selectmen and their assistant Barbara attended various training and informational sessions sponsored by the state. These sessions are most informative and enable us to keep abreast and up to date on changes and policies made by the state. Ken attended some sessions that gave him background information and materials for new selectmen. He found these sessions most useful in understanding the role of a selectman.

Richard Rockwood from Wilton has been appointed as the new Town property appraiser.

The Selectmen extend a thank you to all Town employees and Town volunteers for their faithful service and jobs well done. A special thank you to Barbara Milkovits who has kept the office running in an efficient manner. We look forward to 1997 with the hope that all will run as smoothly as it did in 1996.

Sincerely,

Anne Richards

Wolfgang Millbrandt

Kenneth Greene

TOWN OFFICE HOURS AND MEETINGS

SELECTMEN

Office Hours: Mann House, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Monday through Thursday

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Second and Fourth Tuesday of the month.

Telephone: 878-2070

TOWN CLERK

Office Hours: Mann House, Tuesday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon
Thursday Evening, 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Telephone: 878-2070

PLANNING BOARD

Meetings: Town Hall, 7:30 P.M.
Last Thursday of the month

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Office Hours: Mann House, 7:00 P.M.
Every Tuesday
By Appointment

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Third Monday of the month

WILTON RECYCLING CENTER HOURS

Hours: Tuesday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Thursday 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Sunday 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.



ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR 2 yr term

Catherine Schwenk March 1998

TOWN CLERK 3 yr term

Charlotte N. Hastings March 1999

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Diane M. Meehan, Appointed March 1999

TREASURER 3 yr term

Jeanne Hamel March 1999

DEPUTY TREASURER

Maria Eaton, Appointed March 1999

SELECTMEN 3 yr term

Anne Richards, Chairman March 1999

Kenneth Greene, Appointed March 1997

Wolfgang Millbrandt March 1998

TAX COLLECTOR 3 yr term

Charlotte N. Hastings March 1999

DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

Diane M. Meehan, Appointed March 1999

AUDITOR 1 yr term

David Evans, Appointed March 1997

SUPERVISORS OF CHECK LIST 6 yr term

Constance Lacasse, Chairman March 2000

Linda Goss March 1998

Linda LeBlanc March 2002

LIBRARY TRUSTEES 3 yr term

Linda Martin-Berke March 1998

Bette Lewicke March 1997

Mary Calderan March 1999

TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES 3 yr term

Wolfgang Millbrandt March 1997

Wallace A. Brown March 1998

Arthur Rafter March 1999

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS 3 yr term

James Losee March 1999

Reverend Bonnie Evans March 1998

George Schwenk March 1997

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Irene Cook, Chairman	March 1999
David Evans	March 1997
David Profit	March 1999
Earle Robinson	March 1997
Robert Larochelle, Alternate	March 1999

PLANNING BOARD

Robert Griffin, Chairman	March 1999
Bruce Mann	March 1998
Michael Goen, resigned	March 1998
William Downs	March 1999
Garth Fletcher, Alternate	March 1999
Constance Lacasse, Clerk	
Anne Richards, Ex-officio	

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Ulysses Shields, Chairman	March 1997
Michael Davieau, Vice Chairman	March 1998
Robert Bergeron	March 1998
Kevin Casey	March 1997
David Eaton, Alternate	March 1998
Jeanne Hamel, Clerk & Alternate	March 1999
Edward Hamel, Alternate	March 1997
Clifton Hastings, Alternate	March 1999
Kenneth Greene, Ex-officio	

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Dorothy Millbrandt, Chairman	March 1999
John Lewicke	March 1997
Penelope Savard	March 1997
Wolfgang Millbrandt, Ex-officio	

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Robert Larochelle, Chairman	March 1997
Gary Ellsworth	March 1997
Elizabeth Fletcher	March 1999
Edith Griffin	March 1997
Charles Lanni	March 1997
Florence Roberts	March 1999

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

John Valentine, Co-Chairman	March 1997
Curtis Dunn, Co-Chairman	March 1997
Eric Anderson	March 1999
Florence Roberts	March 1999
William Downs, Town Forester	March 1997
Kenneth Greene, Ex-officio	

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Cynthia Budrewicz, Chairman	March 1997
Paula Babel	March 1997
Wallace A. Brown	March 1998
Gretchen West	March 1999

POLICE OFFICERS

Robert L. Malboeuf	Police Chief
Vint Boggis	Full Time Sergeant
John Dube	Special Police Officer
Michael Farrey	Special Police Officer
John LeBlanc, Sr.	Special Police Officer

EMERGENCY SERVICES

David P. Cook	Fire Chief/EMT-D/Warden
Cheryl Greenwood	EMT Coordinator
David Baker	First Asst. Chief/Deputy Warden
Robert A. Bergeron	Second Asst. Chief/Deputy Warden
Frederick W. Greenwood	Captain/Deputy Warden
Francis Gavin	First Lieutenant
Rodney Stedman	Second Lieutenant/Deputy Warden
Marcel Bernier	Firefighter
Bruce Berry	EMT-D
Michael Blum	Firefighter
Wallace A. Brown	Firefighter/Deputy Warden/Waterhole Committee
John Dube	Firefighter/EMT-D
Patricia G. Greene	EMT-I-D
Christopher Greenwood	Firefighter
Edward Hamel	EMT-D
Clifton Hastings	Firefighter/Deputy Warden
Charles Lanni	Firefighter
John LeBlanc, Sr.	EMT-D
Robert L. Malboeuf	EMT-D
Bernard O'Grady	Firefighter
Philip Phalon, Jr.	Firefighter
Anne Richards	Firefighter
Donna Richardson	Firefighter/EMT-D
Mark Richardson	Firefighter
Stuart Sherman	Firefighter/EMT-D
Roland Theriault	Firefighter
Cindy Tibbetts	EMT-D
Curtis M. Dunn	Deputy Warden
Reverend Bonnie Evans	Chaplain

BALLOT CLERKS

Pauline Bergeron	March 1997
Sandra LeClair	March 1999
Teri Parker	March 1997
Florence Wilson	March 1998

* * *

Curtis M. Dunn	ROAD AGENT
David P. Cook	ASSISTANT ROAD AGENT
Kenneth B. Wilson	BUILDING INSPECTOR
Florence Wilson	TOWN BUILDING CUSTODIAN
Edward Hamel	CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR
Jeanne Hamel	DEPUTY CIVIL DEFENSE
Kenneth B. Wilson	HOUSE NUMBERING AGENT
William Downs	TOWN FORESTER
Frederick Greenwood	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
Wallace Brown	SEXTON

Carol Fiset
Kenneth B. Wilson

HEALTH OFFICER
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER

MASON TOWN WARRANT

The State of New Hampshire

The polls will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at: Mason Town Hall

To the inhabitants of the Town of Mason, in the County of Hillsborough, in said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to come to the polling place at the Town Hall in Mason at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th day of March, 1997, for the election of Town officers pursuant to Article 1 of this Warrant, bringing in your ballots for the following:

Selectman	3 years
Auditor	1 year
Library Trustee	3 years
Trustee of Cemeteries	3 years
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 years

and to cast your ballots pursuant to Article 2 and 3 regarding amending Appendix A, paragraph 2 (Article 2), and replacing current Article IV, Section O (Article 3).

The polls will be open continuously until 7 p.m. when they shall close.

You are hereby notified also to meet at 8 p.m. of the same day and at the same place to act upon Articles of this Warrant.

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing terms.

Articles 2 and 3 were reviewed at a public hearing on January 16, 1997, 7:30 PM in the Mann House.

2. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Mason Planning Ordinance, Appendix A, paragraph 2 by replacing "and any revisions thereafter" with "as reissued with an effective date of December 1, 1992, and any revisions thereafter", or take any other action relative thereto.

This amendment has been requested by the NH Office of State Planning.

3. To see if the Town will vote to replace the current Article IV, section o of the Town of Mason Planning Ordinance:

O. Property owners of enterprises in Mason shall be allowed two advertising signs on the premises, such signs not to total over fifteen square feet in area; one or more signs pertaining to the lease, sale or use of a lot or building on which placed; and directional signs, provided that said signs (1) do not exceed two square feet in areas, and (2) do not exceed one sign in any two-mile length of road, not including those to indicate changes in direction. No sign shall be neon, animated or flashing.

with the following:

O. Advertising signs in Mason, with the exception of directional signs described in paragraph O.1.b below, must be on the property on which the enterprise being advertised is located. Such signs shall conform to the following provisions:

1. Signs in the GRAF district (as defined in Article V) in Mason are subject to these stipulations:

a. Signs in Mason must conform to the following classes:

1. Class 1: A single free-standing sign is allowed. The total area of the sign board shall not exceed fifteen square feet in area; both sides of the sign board may be used. The top of the sign board shall not exceed twelve feet in height.
2. Class 2: Signs affixed to the building housing the enterprise are allowed. The total area of the sign or signs shall not exceed fifteen square feet in aggregate area. None of these signs shall be attached to or protrude above the roof.
3. Class 3: In addition, a single temporary sign is allowed, only for purposes of indicating that the premises is for sale or lease. This sign may be either free-standing, in which case it must conform to the provisions in paragraph O.1.a.1; or affixed to the building, in which case it must conform to the provisions in paragraph O.1.a.2.

b. In addition, directional signs may be placed on property other than that on which the enterprise is located, but only with the consent of the owner of the property. These signs shall not be in the town or state right of way. Each sign is restricted to no more than one and one-half square feet in area. For a given enterprise, no more than one sign shall be placed within any two-mile section of road; with the exception that if directional signs are required at more than one corner within a two-mile section of road, such additional signs shall be allowed. No enterprise shall have more than twelve directional signs within the town of Mason.

c. No sign shall be neon, animated, or flashing.

d. No sign or lighting for a business shall be positioned in such a manner that it impedes the vision or line of sight of drives in or on public ways, nor cause glare or direct lighting on any adjacent property.

2. Signs in the VR district (as defined in Article V) in Mason shall comply with the requirements listed in O.1 and further shall be limited to fifteen square feet in aggregate area, not including a temporary sign as defined in paragraph O.1.b.

3. Signs in the Historic District (as defined in Article V) in Mason shall comply with the requirements listed in O.1, shall be limited to fifteen square feet in aggregate area, not including a temporary sign as defined in paragraph O.1.b, and must be approved by the Historic District Commission.

4. Existing signs on enterprises in Mason at the time of this amendment are exempt from the amended provisions. However, if an existing sign is changed or removed, any replacement must conform to the amended provisions.

or take any other action relative thereto.

This amendment to the Planning Ordinance is submitted by the Mason Planning Board for approval by the town.

4. To see if the Town will vote to modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Mason based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$10,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$15,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$20,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years, own real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five years. In addition the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$18,400 or, if married a combined net income of not more than \$26,400; and own net assets not in excess of \$35,000.
5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or borrowing, or otherwise the sum of Seven Hundred Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred One Dollars (\$717,701) for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing, or take any other action relative thereto.
6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars (\$14,352) for the third payment of the lease for the Highway Department's dump truck as voted for at Town Meeting, March 1995, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
9. To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of an existing Cemetery Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
10. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to withdraw Three Thousand Dollars (\$3000) from the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund for the purpose of installing lot markers and continuing work in the new cemetery, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000) for the purchase of portable radios for the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0).
12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000) to replace the highway radar for the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0).
13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1700) from surplus, these amounts received in 1996 from the sale of surplus Fire Department equipment, to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).

14. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to withdraw One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1700) from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing fire equipment, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy- Five Dollars (\$75) from surplus, these amounts received in 1996 from the sale of cemetery lots, to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
16. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-d authorizing the Library Trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose, provided, however, that no acceptance of personal property by the library trustees shall be deemed to bind the town or the library trustees to raise, appropriate or expend any public funds for the operation, maintenance, repair or replacement of such personal property. Such authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of town meeting. Recommended by Selectmen (-).
17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment and vehicles from the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).

2/27/97	1993	1993	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	97/96
Town Officers' Salaries										
Selectmen	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	0.0%
Town Clerk	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	0.0%
Treasurer	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	0.0%
Auditor	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	0.0%
Moderator	115	115	300	300	100	100	300	300	100	-66.7%
	4,440	4,440	4,625	4,625	4,425	4,425	4,625	4,625	4,425	-4.3%
Fees in Lieu of Salaries										
Tax Collector	7,250	7,788	7,250	7,806	7,250	7,610	7,250	7,562	7,250	0.0%
Town Clerk	3,000	2,846	3,000	2,999	3,000	4,870	3,000	4,003	3,000	0.0%
	10,250	10,634	10,250	10,805	10,250	12,480	10,250	11,565	10,250	0.0%
Administration										
Administrative Ass't	16,275	16,142	16,758	16,731	17,160	17,133	17,960	17,958	18,590	3.5%
Payroll taxes	2,700	2,705	2,850	2,736	2,850	2,876	2,950	2,801	3,050	3.4%
Health insurance	5,500	5,487	6,030	5,965	5,966	5,965	6,200	6,128	6,200	0.0%
Workers comp.	160	342	893	766	850	672	850	804	850	0.0%
Advertising	100	0	75	43	65	0	65	29	65	0.0%
Bank service charges	300	619	400	678	650	807	675	641	525	-22.2%
Association dues	85	35	50	35	50	55	55	35	55	0.0%
State Dog Fees			0	508		544	0	608	0	
Bonds	625	677	650	0	500	0	0	0	0	
Conferences	1,200	517	600	994	600	567	600	120	600	0.0%
Computer services	1,700	1,610	1,700	1,561	1,700	1,595	1,700	1,681	1,700	0.0%
Mileage	150	200	150	269	200	204	200	358	250	25.0%
Contingency	250	70	200	190	200	138	200	717	200	0.0%
Postage	900	933	900	930	1,000	1,088	1,100	1,101	1,200	9.1%
Registry fees	250	542	250	341	250	244	250	223	250	0.0%
Repairs & maintenance	300	2,620	300	180	200	151	200	514	200	0.0%
Retirement Ins	765	789	810	824	858	849	872	897	915	4.9%
Office supplies	1,200	1,333	1,200	1,525	1,200	1,330	1,300	1,758	1,350	3.8%
Telephone	850	636	750	682	750	714	750	685	700	-6.7%
Town reports	650	526	650	624	650	624	700	689	700	0.0%
	33,960	35,781	35,216	35,560	35,699	35,557	36,627	37,747	37,400	2.1%

2/27/97	1993	1993	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	Change
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	97/96
APPROPRIATIONS										
Cemetery Expenses										
Cemetery maintenance	900	725	1,000	1,295	1,500	1,119	1,500	2,038	1,500	0.0%
Cemetery salaries	5,000	5,085	5,500	5,694	5,500	5,708	6,350	6,574	6,550	3.1%
Payroll taxes	384	389	421	424	421	436	500	503	500	0.0%
Workers comp.	0	718	810	810	930	909	600	595	600	0.0%
	6,284	6,917	7,731	8,223	8,351	8,172	8,950	9,710	9,150	2.2%
Reappraisal of Property										
Assessing	5,000	3,263	5,200	5,220	6,200	5,200	5,200	2,640	3,000	-42.3%
Tax map update	800	450	500	465	485	485	485	485	485	0.0%
	5,800	3,713	5,700	5,685	6,685	5,685	5,685	3,125	3,485	-38.7%
Town Building Expenses										
Custodian salaries	3,800	3,650	3,800	3,575	3,800	3,750	3,800	3,800	3,800	0.0%
Supplies	150	46	100	27	125	107	125	117	125	0.0%
Heat	2,200	1,963	2,200	1,651	2,200	1,645	2,200	2,395	2,200	0.0%
Electricity	1,600	1,583	1,600	1,949	2,000	2,108	2,100	1,857	2,100	0.0%
Repairs & maintenance	2,500	3,630	2,500	2,152	2,500	2,905	3,000	2,316	3,000	0.0%
	10,250	10,872	10,200	9,355	10,625	10,516	11,225	10,485	11,225	0.0%
Employment/Insurance Expenses										
Accident/Health Insurance	1,452	1,398	1,968	1,932	1,968	1,750	1,930	1,744	2,100	8.8%
Unemployment taxes	1,000	894	1,000	812	700	667	700	634	700	0.0%
Liability Insurance	23,000	20,720	23,000	20,309	22,000	20,391	23,000	22,003	23,000	0.0%
	25,452	23,013	25,968	23,053	24,668	22,808	25,630	24,381	25,800	0.7%
Planning & Zoning										
Salaries	1,400	968	1,400	665	1,200	1,165	1,200	815	1,200	0.0%
Payroll taxes	100	73	100	50	92	89	92	62	92	0.0%
Advertising	500	229	400	240	300	350	300	199	280	-6.7%
Training	100	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Board of Adjustment	200	43	50	102	50	264	500	994	900	80.0%
Historic District Commission	50	48	50	0	50	68	50	10	50	0.0%
SW Reg. Planning/Consulting	1,224	1,374	1,220	1,220	1,370	1,361	1,370	1,814	1,382	0.9%
Supplies	200	205	150	108	150	339	150	268	150	0.0%
Postage	200	150	150	118	150	125	150	32	150	0.0%
	3,974	3,089	3,570	2,503	3,362	3,762	3,812	4,194	4,204	10.3%

2/27/97	1993	1993	1994	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	97/96
Building Inspection											
Bldg inspector-fees	1,600	889	1,000	1,137	1,000		732	1,000	832	1,000	0.0%
Payroll taxes	150	68	77	88	77		62	77	64	77	0.0%
Expenses	200	199	200	192	300		257	300	352	300	0.0%
	1,950	1,156	1,277	1,417	1,377		1,051	1,377	1,248	1,377	0.0%
Health & Welfare											
Health officer	50	0	25	0	25		0	25	0	25	0.0%
Animal control	1,400	735	500	474	2,000		2,675	2,000	2,077	2,000	0.0%
Town poor	2,000	1,360	2,000	1,398	2,000		0	2,000	595	2,000	0.0%
Nashua Mediation											
Visiting nurse	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500		1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
	4,950	3,615	4,025	3,372	5,525		4,175	5,525	4,162	5,525	0.0%
Ambulance											
Ambulance Service Fee	6,811	4,711	3,500	3,500	3,500		3,500	3,675	3,675	3,675	0.0%
Supplies			1,000	1,999	1,000		970	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Training			1,000		1,000		318	1,000	1,000	1,200	20.0%
	6,811	4,711	5,500	5,499	5,500		4,788	5,675	5,675	5,875	3.5%
Library											
Library salaries	14,880	14,879	15,315	15,315	15,744		15,741	16,180	16,180	16,535	2.2%
Payroll taxes	1,150	1,138	1,172	1,178	1,205		1,199	1,240	1,238	1,265	2.0%
Worker's Comp.			66	66	60		60	60	60	60	0.0%
Dues, fees & educ	677	560	505	436	620		607	620	536	720	16.1%
Equipment maintenance	45	45	0	0	0		0	0	0	55	na
Postage	75	75	75	75	75		75	75	75	75	0.0%
Programming	50	49	125	122	125		125	225	225	125	-44.4%
Matching Funds					150		125	150	150	0	-100.0%
Supplies	125	124	175	174	175		175	325	325	400	23.1%
Telephone	360	325	409	370	420		400	420	490	1,050	150.0%
Copy machine								460		0	-100.0%
Travel	170	170	190	190	210		210	230	215	230	0.0%
Books	1,798	1,815	2,000	1,998	2,000		2,001	2,500	2,507	2,500	0.0%
	19,330	19,180	20,032	19,925	20,784		20,717	22,485	22,001	23,015	2.4%

2/27/97	1993	1993	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	97/96
Parks & Recreation										
Grounds improvements/repairs	220	220	220	468	300	519	300	150	300	0.0%
Lawn supplies	300	292	300	214	300	139	300	0	250	-16.7%
Mowing	600	600	600	469	600	302	600	330	600	0.0%
Recreation area expenses	240	220	240	280	300	16	300	223	325	8.3%
Stone dust	250	95	250	0	250	225	250	0	200	-20.0%
Toilet facilities	125	20	75	50	125	30	125	80	125	0.0%
Trash removal	60	63	60	93	80	89	90	60	90	0.0%
Activities/Rec day	350	223	350	402	450	378	450	564	600	33.3%
Patriotic purposes	300	300	400	399	500	498	600	551	500	-16.7%
Electricity							60	62	85	41.7%
Street lighting	800	782	860	902	926	951	960	984	1,000	4.2%
Town common	2,500	2,698	2,700	2,727	2,700	2,727	2,850	2,939	3,850	35.1%
Payroll taxes	200	205	207	203	207	183	220	207	300	36.4%
Worker's Comp	0	292	317	341	317	300	317	277	400	26.2%
	5,945	6,010	6,579	6,548	7,055	6,356	7,422	6,427	8,625	16.2%
Water Hole										
Water hole & dry hyd	1,000	905	1,000	304	1,000	800	1,000	0	1,000	0.0%
House & water hole # 's	100	100	100	100	125	125	125	125	385	208.0%
	1,100	1,005	1,100	404	1,125	925	1,125	125	1,385	23.1%
New Hampshire Municipal Asso.										
Wilton Recycling Center	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	0.0%
Communication Expenses	35,192	35,192	32,887	30,536	31,089	31,089	29,040	29,040	39,063	34.5%
Legal Expenses	21,168	21,165	23,787	23,785	32,594	32,594	41,594	38,990	19,590	-53.1%
Civil Defense	3,000	0	3,000	0	5,000	5,739	5,000	7,053	5,000	0.0%
Conservation Commission	100	0	50	0	50	11	100	100	100	0.0%
Election Expenses	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Town Forestry Committee	500	296	800	752	689	413	2,200	1,352	500	-77.3%
					7,500	7,697	750	1,337	750	0.0%

2/27/97	1993	1993	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	97/96
Highway Town Maintenance										
Road agent salary	31,111	31,103	31,332	31,284	32,525	32,490	33,643	33,480	35,550	5.7%
Asst road agent salary	25,557	25,557	26,322	26,296	27,117	27,107	27,930	24,404	28,778	3.0%
Equipment operator	21,754	19,921	22,415	21,834	23,096	22,367	23,798	23,695	24,521	3.0%
Other salaries	26,000	30,798	27,500	34,017	30,000	33,698	32,000	34,170	34,640	8.3%
Overtime wages	10,000	9,489	11,000	8,518	11,000	11,883	13,500	15,946	11,500	-14.8%
Payroll taxes	8,800	9,020	9,071	9,263	9,470	9,895	9,860	10,192	10,350	5.0%
Health insurance	12,960	11,891	12,969	12,855	13,408	12,856	14,534	10,941	12,800	-11.9%
Alcohol and drug testing							400	270	400	0.0%
Workers comp.	4,000	1,400	14,459	13,625	13,000	10,066	13,370	13,164	16,750	25.3%
Retirement	4,550	4,610	4,750	4,524	4,750	4,636	4,800	5,062	4,300	-10.4%
Consulting engineer	250	111	200	0	200	0	200	0	250	25.0%
Mileage	1,700	1,788	1,850	1,722	2,000	2,033	2,000	2,191	2,500	25.0%
Fire equipment rental	350	33	350	0	350	65	350	364	500	42.9%
Calcium chloride	9,000	10,300	10,000	10,264	11,000	11,067	11,500	11,395	12,500	8.7%
Crusher	4,000	2,308	4,000	0	5,000	5,153	5,000	5,100	5,000	0.0%
Culverts	1,000	180	1,000	513	1,000	0	1,000	868	2,000	100.0%
Oil - pug mill	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,360	5,500	5,500	7,000	7,001	7,000	0.0%
Oil - sealing	10,500	10,084	11,500	11,536	14,000	16,277	13,500	10,772	15,500	14.8%
Patch	2,000	1,984	2,000	2,078	2,000	2,244	2,500	2,240	2,500	0.0%
Salt	5,000	4,631	4,000	3,649	5,500	5,332	5,000	4,520	4,000	-20.0%
Tractor rental	150	378	150	0	0	84	100	84	100	0.0%
Truck rentals	300	40	300	0	300	450	200	0	200	0.0%
Plowing	12,000	13,398	16,000	13,729	11,000	8,025	14,000	15,210	13,000	-7.1%
Signs & Rewards									500	na
	196,482	194,523	216,668	211,066	222,216	221,226	236,185	231,069	245,139	3.8%
Highway Dept. Expenses										
Building maintenance	3,000	3,735	3,000	3,306	4,000	3,371	3,000	4,341	3,000	0.0%
Chains	600	782	600	198	600	534	600	581	600	0.0%
Chainsaw repairs	300	90	400	36	600	567	600	35	400	-33.3%
Dues & education	550	547	600	190	500	752	600	851	800	33.3%
Edges for plows & graders	1,000	1,165	1,200	1,101	1,200	1,295	1,500	1,721	1,500	0.0%
Electricity	1,500	1,630	1,800	1,764	2,050	2,003	2,200	2,060	2,300	4.5%

2/27/97	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget		97/96
Highway...											
Equipment maintenance	16,000	18,058	15,000	22,793	17,000	17,469	18,000	21,509	18,000	18,000	0.0%
Fuel	12,000	8,854	11,000	9,736	11,000	10,750	11,000	11,599	11,000	11,000	0.0%
Radios	600	932	800	547	800	733	1,000	1,039	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Telephone	700	705	850	877	1,000	930	1,000	969	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Tires	1,500	1,865	2,500	879	2,500	2,905	2,000	1,688	2,000	2,000	0.0%
Safety equipment	1,000	437	1,000	1,077	1,000	1,174	1,200	1,602	1,200	1,200	0.0%
Tools	800	886	800	1,154	800	876	800	1,001	800	800	0.0%
Welding supplies	400	1,394	400	253	300	309	400	584	400	400	0.0%
Subtotal	39,950	41,081	39,950	43,910	43,350	43,668	43,900	49,580	44,000	44,000	0.2%
Total Highway Expenses	236,432	235,604	256,618	254,976	265,566	264,894	280,085	280,649	285,139		3.2%
Mr. Dunn would again like to point out that Workmen's Compensation costs are offset by revenues.											
Police Department											
Chief's salary	32,611	32,611	33,589	33,589	34,597	34,597	35,635	35,634	36,703		3.0%
Fulltime Officer			19,240	18,903	20,680	18,980	26,600	26,600	29,600		11.3%
Possible Second Fulltime Officer									14,200		
Officers' salaries	20,674	22,266	9,028	9,040	9,028	11,129	12,900	16,809	14,400	14,400	11.6%
Payroll taxes	2,055	2,127	1,457	1,472	1,493	1,779	1,890	2,222	2,300	2,300	21.7%
Health insurance	5,500	5,460	8,585	8,462	8,494	8,688	12,770	12,924	14,970		17.2%
Workers comp.	1,120	758	3,525	3,525	4,000	3,797	3,150	3,102	3,880		23.2%
Retirement	1,640	1,177	2,642	1,904	2,212	1,562	2,490	1,832	3,000		20.5%
Conventions & dues	300	150	200	240	200	150	200	175	200	200	0.0%
Cruiser fuel	2,500	1,754	2,000	2,261	2,350	2,452	2,500	2,571	2,500	2,500	0.0%
Cruiser maintenance	2,500	1,684	2,000	2,526	2,500	3,375	2,500	4,166	3,000	3,000	20.0%
Cruiser lease	6,900	6,893	6,900	6,893	6,900	7,090	9,240	9,240	9,240	9,240	0.0%
Office expenses	2,000	1,730	2,000	2,160	2,250	2,807	2,750	3,240	3,000	3,000	9.1%
Training	2,100	2,494	1,000	1,010	1,000	543	2,000	1,841	2,000	2,000	0.0%
Uniforms	1,000	1,337	1,000	1,090	1,000	1,049	1,000	1,506	1,500	1,500	50.0%
Equipment & maintenance	1,000	2,054	1,000	1,461	1,000	1,579	1,000	1,070	2,000	2,000	100.0%
Reports & permits	1,000	318	500	298	500	484	500	198	500	500	0.0%
	82,900	82,814	94,666	94,836	98,204	100,059	117,125	123,130	142,993		22.1%

2/27/97	1993	1993	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	97/96
Fire Department										
Fire Chief's salary	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Other Stipends			6,000	6,000	5,750	5,690	5,750	5,750	5,750	0.0%
Warden training	100	28	50	60	75	0	75	0	0	-100.0%
Workers comp.	200	109	700	600	990	840	990	802	990	0.0%
Utilities	3,000	2,543	2,500	2,514	2,600	2,279	2,800	2,370	2,800	0.0%
Telephone	1,000	698	800	718	800	703	800	633	800	0.0%
Radio repair	800	901	800	786	800	808	800	785	1,000	25.0%
Fuel	1,200	752	1,000	700	750	586	750	690	750	0.0%
Code books	400	239	250	246	250	103	150	20	150	0.0%
Training	1,250	1,183	1,200	1,081	1,200	1,075	1,200	1,752	1,400	16.7%
Equipment & Maint	2,500	2,333	3,500	3,664	3,500	3,194	3,500	3,484	3,500	0.0%
Bld maintenance	500	661	1,200	1,051	1,500	1,473	1,750	2,615	2,000	14.3%
Officers expenses/Dues	500	269	600	623	1,100	1,185	1,400	1,360	1,400	0.0%
Insurance	200	190	200	190	200	202	200	221	250	25.0%
Vehicle maintenance	4,000	4,119	4,000	4,021	4,000	4,026	4,000	3,906	4,000	0.0%
Expendables	350	63	300	285	350	320	350	371	350	0.0%
Hepatitis Vaccine Program										
Subtotal	17,500	15,587	26,600	25,742	25,865	24,038	26,290	26,371	26,915	2.4%
Fire truck bond principal	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	0	-100.0%
Fire truck bond interest	3,718	3,718	2,705	2,705	1,693	1,693	680	680	0	-100.0%
Truck engine replacement										
Total Fire Dept.	36,218	34,305	44,305	43,447	42,558	40,731	36,970	37,051	26,915	-27.2%
Interest Tax Notes	20,000	7,483	15,000	18,844	18,000	27,592	40,000	37,000	40,000	0.0%
Abateements & Refunds		2,799		4,644		23,898		1,225		
Total Appropriations	578,006	551,082	614,886	610,813	648,681	670,436	705,277	704,397	717,701	1.8%
Increase over prior year	1.81%		6.38%		5.50%		8.72%		1.76%	
Total Budget Proposed	578,006		608,886		652,078		701,467		717,701	
Total Budget Voted	578,006		614,886		648,681		705,277			

2/27/97	1993	1993	1994	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1997	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	97/96
Warrant Articles '96										
96#3 Dump Truck, 2nd payment								14,352	14,352	
96#5 Fire packs, 2nd payment					Transfer (paid in 95)			9,900		
96#6 Fire overhead doors								8,000	7,031	
96#7 Defibrillator								6,950	6,935	
96#8 Highway Equip From Surp								1,926		
96#10 Sander Body					Capital Reserve			6,000	6,000	
96#11 Cemetery Lot Markers					Trust Fund			5,000	4,999	
96#12 Library Computer								3,500	3,498	
96#13 Lawn tractor mower								2,600	2,600	
96#14 Police printer combination								1,000	999	
96#15 Cemetery lot sales								150		
								59,378	46,414	
Warrant Articles '97										
97#6 Dump Truck, 3rd payment									14,352	
97#7 Fire Equip Capital Reserve									15,000	
97#8 Highway Capital Reserve									10,000	
97#10 Cemetery Cap Res Withdraw										3,000
97#11 Police Radios									2,000	
97#12 Police Radar									2,000	
97#13 Fire Equip Cap Res Transfer									1,700	
97#14 Fire Equip Cap Res Withdraw										1,700
97#15 Cemetery Cap Res Transfer									75	
									45,127	
SUMMARY										
Town Assessments										
Total Appropriations	578,006	551,082	614,886	610,813	670,436	648,681		705,277	717,701	1.8%
Total Warrants	105,809	105,810	60,692	60,692	42,815	42,815		59,378	45,127	-24.0%
Less Revenues	246,434	258,118	230,000	228,964	270,710	230,000		250,000	260,000	
Expenses less Revenues	437,381	398,714	445,578	442,541	442,541	461,496		514,655	502,828	-2.3%

2/27/97	1993	1993	1993	1994	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	97/96
Other Assessments												
School District Assessment	929,978	929,978	1071525	1025816	1151714	1119563	1151714	1141658	1198741	1141658	1198741	4.1%
Hillsborough County	124,425	125,393	130,409	105,745	109,975	117,508	117,508	122,428	122,428	122,428	122,428	4.2%
Total Taxation												2.2%
	1,491,784	1,454,145	1,647,512	1,574,102	1,723,185	1,679,612	1,783,877	1,706,627	1,823,997			
		42,619,300	43,598,100	44,484,550	45,463,350	44,484,550	44,284,000	43,579,450	43,579,450			
Valuation(total - exemptions)												-1.6%
Budget Tax Rate	\$35.00	\$34.12	\$37.79	\$35.39	\$37.90	\$37.76	\$40.28	\$39.16	\$41.85			
Actual Rate		\$34.35		\$34.96		\$37.91		\$38.45				

Due to time constraints and other difficulties in obtaining information from the school district we were unable to accurately estimate Mason's School assessment.

TOWN OF MASON

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance

For the year ended December 31, 1996

REVENUES:	1996	1995	1994
Highway Block Grant	\$53,282	\$53,540	\$49,202
Shared revenue	30,268	30,521	30,807
Other state grants	714	449	515
Property taxes	1,702,429	1,672,530	1,547,983
Yield taxes	41,570	24,046	6,897
Land use change taxes	2,000	1,780	7,960
Motor vehicle fees	113,957	100,676	97,461
Penalties and interest	24,473	19,835	18,533
Licenses and permits	2,391	2,787	3,753
Interest income	39,787	35,027	17,095
Dog licenses	2,299	2,447	2,289
Rooms & Meals Tax	10,040	16,873	
Forestry Commission	1,255	4,920	
Other	36,071	33,702	24,914
Total revenues	2,060,536	1,999,133	1,807,409
EXPENDITURES:			
General government	108,485	127,782	106,160
Cemeteries	17,309	8,172	13,223
Public safety	196,746	188,647	166,825
Highways	301,001	292,669	283,870
Sanitation	29,040	31,089	30,536
Health & Welfare	16,773	4,175	3,372
Education	1,141,658	1,119,563	1,025,816
Culture and recreation	33,779	36,321	32,071
Debt service	47,680	44,285	36,549
County taxes	122,428	117,508	105,745
Total expenditures	2,014,899	1,970,211	1,804,167
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	45,637	28,922	3,242
Other financing sources:			
Interfund transfers	12,500	1,620	6,500
Unexpended encumbrances	0	0	255
	12,500	1,620	6,755
Excess (deficit) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	58,137	30,542	9,997
Fund balance beginning	208,515	177,973	167,976
Fund balance ending	\$266,652	\$208,515	\$177,973

TOWN OF MASON

Combined Balance Sheet

At December 31, 1996

ASSETS	General Fund	Capital Reserves	Trust Funds	Consrv Comm	Forestry Committee	All Funds
Cash	\$513,978	\$28,066	\$126,394	\$33,626	\$44,674	\$746,738
Debit Memo	0					\$0
Deeded property	22,379					\$22,379
Unredeemed taxes	139,180					\$139,180
Uncollected taxes	161,411					\$161,411
Total assets	\$836,948	\$28,066	\$126,394	\$33,626	\$44,674	\$1,069,708

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Escrow funds	\$3,391					\$3,391
Encumbrances	468					468
Payroll taxes payable	0					0
Due to schools	566,437					566,437
Total liabilities	570,296	0	0	0	0	570,296
Fund balances	266,652	28,066	126,394	33,626	44,674	499,412
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$836,948	\$28,066	\$126,394	\$33,626	\$44,674	\$1,069,708

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash on hand, January 1, 1996	444,866
Cash receipts:	
Town Clerk	116,803
Tax Collector	1,788,124
Selectmen	147,174
Interest income Fleet	1,174
Interest income NHPDIP	38,613
Tax Anticipation Loans	1,000,000
Interest CD	0
Total cash available	3,536,754
Selectmen's orders paid	1,700,012
Payroll disbursements	285,054
Tax anticipation loans repaid	1,000,000
Interest on tax anticipation loan	37,000
Gifts paid out	0
Bank service charges	710
Total monies paid out	3,022,776
Cash on hand, December 31, 1996	513,978

Jeanne Hamel, Treasurer

TOWN OF MASON BONDS

Period	Principal Muni Bond			Interest	Total Debt	Fiscal Debt
	Outstanding	Principal	Coupon		Service	Service
1 15-Jan-90			6.75%	3396.26	3396.26	
2 15-Jul-90	100000	15000	6.75%	3377.50	18377.50	21773.76
3 15-Jan-91			6.75%	2871.25	2871.25	
4 15-Jul-91	85000	15000	6.75%	2871.25	17871.25	20742.50
5 15-Jan-92			6.75%	2365.00	2365.00	
6 15-Jul-92	70000	15000	6.75%	2365.00	17365.00	19730.00
7 15-Jan-93			6.75%	1858.75	1858.75	
8 15-Jul-93	55000	15000	6.75%	1858.75	16858.75	18717.50
9 15-Jan-94			6.75%	1352.50	1352.50	
10 15-Jul-94	40000	15000	6.75%	1352.50	16352.50	17705.00
11 15-Jan-95			6.75%	846.25	846.25	
12 15-Jul-95	25000	15000	6.75%	846.25	15846.25	16692.50
13 15-Jan-96			6.75%	340.00	340.00	
14 15-Jul-96	10000	10000	6.80%	340.00	10340.00	10680.00
Totals		100000		26041.26	126041.26	126041.26

SUMMARY OF VALUATION

Improved & Unimproved Land	11,828,700
Assessed Value of Current Use Land	591,650
Consevation Restriction Assessment	1,700
Buildings (Mobile Homes Included)	29,951,800
Public Utilities (PSNH)	1,300,000
Valuations Before Exemptions	<u>43,673,850</u>

EXEMPTIONS

Elderly Exemptions	85,000
Solar Exemptions	<u>9,400</u>
	<u>94,400</u>

NET VALUE FOR TAX RATE

43,579,450

WAR SERVICE TAX CREDIT

Totally and permanently disables veterans, their spouses or widows, and the widows of veterans who died or were killed in action.....	Limit	No.	Credits
	\$1,400	2	\$2,800
All Other Qualified Persons.....	\$100	63	\$6,300

1996 TAX RATE

Town	9.86
County	2.79
School	<u>25.80</u>
Total Rate	\$38.45

REPORT OF THE MASON TRUST FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1996

	PRINCIPAL		INTEREST		TOTAL
	Beginning Balance	Funds Createc (Expended)	Ending Balance	Beginning Balance Interest Earned Receipts (Disbursals)	Fund Balance
TRUST FUNDS					
Boynton School	\$11,063.07		\$11,063.07	\$5,991.50	\$6,981.20
Stearns School	\$10,469.36		\$10,469.36	\$7,449.33	\$8,492.74
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$21,845.33	\$150.00	\$21,995.33	\$4,784.13	\$4,908.76
Cemetery Land Improvement	\$3,710.00	\$75.00	\$3,785.00	\$5,513.43	\$947.54
Ellen Augusta Worcester Wilson	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	\$7,113.76	\$8,992.39
Whittaker-Locke Library	\$10,808.07		\$10,808.07	\$639.38	\$724.55
Ephraim & Martha Lucindy Hildreth	\$9,966.62		\$9,966.62	\$1,595.91	\$2,259.84
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	\$92,862.45	\$225.00	\$93,087.45	\$33,087.44	\$33,307.02
CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS					
Highway Capital Equipment	\$3,006.32	(\$3,006.32)	(\$0.00)	\$3,795.01	\$956.10
Town Reevaluation				\$2,373.11	\$2,504.76
Cemetery Land Purchase				\$1,511.04	\$1,597.99
Fire Equipment		\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$205.67	\$217.24
Library Building	\$17,000.00		\$17,000.00	\$2,934.47	\$4,089.49
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$20,006.32	(\$1,306.32)	\$18,700.00	\$10,819.30	\$9,365.58
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$112,868.77	(\$1,081.32)	\$111,787.45	\$43,906.74	\$42,672.60
				\$8,846.08	\$154,460.05

This is to certify that the information contained in this report is complete and correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief:

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

Reverend Bonnie Evans

James Losee

George Schwend

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

SUMMARY OF TAX ACCOUNTS For the year ended December 31, 1996

	Levies of: 1996	Prior
Uncollected Taxes, Jan.1, 1996:		
Property Taxes		\$182,049.54
Land Use Change Taxes		66.64
Yield Taxes		9,083.93
Taxes Committed to Collector:		
Property Taxes	\$1,702,428.56	
Land Use Change Taxes	2,000.00	
Yield Taxes	41,569.87	
Interest & fees	269.41	1075.96
Overpayments:		
Property Taxes	651.73	
Yield Taxes		
Interest & fees	27.10	183.27
Interest Collected On		
Delinquent Taxes	532.43	9,596.95
Costs Collected On		
Delinquent Taxes		
TOTAL DEBITS	\$1,747,479.10	\$202,056.29

Remitted To Treasurer During Year:

Property Taxes	\$1,542,906.04	\$182,049.54
Land Use Change Taxes	2,000.00	66.64
Yield Taxes	39,681.08	9,083.93
Interest On Taxes	801.84	9,672.91
Costs		1,000.00
Overpayments	678.83	183.27

Abatements Allowed:

Property and Land Use Taxes
Yield Taxes

Uncollected Taxes, Dec. 31, 1996:

Property Taxes	159,522.52	
Land Use Change Taxes		
Yield Taxes	1,888.79	
TOTAL CREDITS	\$1,747,479.10	\$202,056.29

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

SUMMARY OF TAX SALES ACCOUNTS

For the year ended December 31, 1996

	Tax Sale on Account of Levies of:		
	1995	1994	Prior
Balance of Unredeemed Taxes		\$71,325.31	\$52,468.02
Taxes Sold to Town	\$97,574.66		
Interest & Costs Collected After	1,697.14	4,247.78	7,068.10
Overpayment			34.81
TOTAL DEBITS	\$99,271.80	\$75,573.09	\$59,570.93
Remittances to Treasurer:			
Redemptions	\$33,154.02	\$18,801.29	\$23,812.07
Interest & Cost	1,697.14	4,247.78	7,068.10
Overpayment			34.81
Deeded to Town	2,176.35	2,284.65	1,958.54
Unredeemed Taxes Year End	62,244.29	50,239.37	26,697.41
TOTAL CREDITS	\$99,271.80	\$75,573.09	\$59,570.93

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Cash on hand January 1, 1996	\$50
Cash received:	
Dog licenses	\$1,723
Automobile registrations	\$111,489
Title fees	\$438
Filing fees	\$5
Returned checks	\$55
State dog fees	\$576
Marriage licenses	\$342
Overpay	\$145
Municipal agent fees	\$2,030
Total cash received	\$116,803
Cash remitted to Treasurer	\$116,803
Cash on hand, December 31, 1996	\$50



Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Hastings

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

MASON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

The winter of 1995-1996 was one we will long remember because of the snow, snow, and more snow! Plowing, overtime and materials costs were increased. Some were adjusted at Town Meeting and some were not, which resulted in overspends on the budget.

In the spring of 1996, we had rains and a lot of ground water from melting snows. This caused flooding and washouts that had to be repaired. Dirt roads were graded and patching on paved roads was done. Also in the spring, David Morrison asked for a six month leave of absence, beginning the first of June. This was granted by the Selectmen. Dave came back, full time, in the middle of November and we are glad he is back.

In May, our Assistant Road Agent for nineteen years, Bruce Berry, resigned to become the Road Agent for Rindge. Bruce will be missed by our department for all the creative and hard work through the years. Bruce was very helpful this past summer and fall with the maintenance of our equipment and by sharing his knowledge of some of our different projects with the others working in our department. Bruce, again, thank you and best of luck in your new job as Road Agent of Rindge.

During the summer, we ditched, shimmed, removed stones and chip sealed Greenville Road and Darling Hill Road, by the Mann House. We have about half our paved roads chip sealed and are happy with the results. We replaced several culverts in late summer and early fall, but we still have a long way to go in this area.

In October we filled the vacancy of Assistant Road Agent with David Cook. David has had a lot of experience in this field and we are very happy to have his talents working for us. I am looking forward to working with David until I retire.

In November we crushed 4000 yards of gravel in our pit, and also graded and put out 1800 yards on our gravel roads. We had more rains in November that caused damage to our dirt roads. In December we had two wet snowstorms that caused a lot of tree, wire, equipment and dirt road damages. We will be working on these areas well into 1997. Our dump/sander body combination came to us in early fall and has been working nicely. Its multi-purpose use will give us many advantages to do certain jobs in the future.

Many thanks to many people who have helped out this year: Robin Berry who was acting Foreman from June 1 until October 1, thank you for a great job and to your helpers: Arthur Rafter, Bill Downs, Ken Wilson, Wally Brown, Bob Robbins, John Dube, Fred Greenwood, and Shawn Lawler. It was a rough year but I think we made it. I would like to thank other departments and individual citizens for their help and support through the year.

1996, as a year, had more precipitation than any year in the last 102 years, and I, for one believe it!

Respectfully submitted,
Curtis M. Dunn
Road Agent

MASON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The most important words that I would like to say this year is a HEART FELT THANKS TO YOU !!! Clifton Hastings. Cliff, who most of us know, has dedicated many years to the people of Mason, in whatever hat he wore - Selectman, volunteer Fireman, just to name a few.

I like this time of the year because it gives me the opportunity to thank the people that make this Town work so well, even when times are tough. Thanks to the Selectmen and Selectwoman; Chairperson Anne Richards, Clifton Hastings, Wolfgang Millbrandt and to the person that puts it all together for them, the Town's Assistant, Barbara Milkovits. A special thanks to Ken Greene, interim Selectman for Cliff.

Detective Sergeant Vint Boggis has been with us over a year, and doing a great job. He has received updated training that has enhanced our department. Vint has been working on teaching classes for the community, such as; self-defense for women and how to make your home safe. We do plan to offer more in the year to come. John Dube has finished his part time school and has been working with us on a regular schedule. He has been a real asset to us. I want to thank John LeBlanc, Senior and Mike Farrey for their dedication over this past year. A special thanks to John for taking up extra time during Mike's recovery from an eye injury.

Again it is my pleasure to work with the Town Departments toward our goal of serving the people of Mason. As always, Curt Dunn has kept our roads safe to travel day and night. Our Fire Chief Dave Cook and EMS Director Cheryl Greenwood, together, achieved a continuity between all departments that works for the safety of the Town, no matter how tough. Talking about tough, this year was especially tough on all the Town Departments. As Curt said in his report "SNOW, SNOW and more SNOW!" started the year, causing an overburden on the Town's Departments.

1996! Changes! After many years with Monadnock Communications, we started with a new dispatch center on April first. We are now with Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department. They're doing a great job for us. The change went without too much difficulty, thanks to Dave Cook working with Art Durette from the Hillsborough County. This change did affect the activities count for the Police this year. As of this time, I have not received an activities count that can be submitted; only the number of actual calls for services requiring paperwork, which were around 750 to 800 calls.

This year has seen a large amount of calls occurring during weekday evenings. This is something, that in the past, we didn't have to deal with as much and in turn did not affect our budget.

Thank you to the people of Mason for your support, for now and the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert L. Malboeuf
Police Chief

REPORT of the PLANNING BOARD

During 1996, the Planning Board completed the hearings for the Potter subdivision on Merriam Hill Road. Four public hearings were held, concluding with a final compliance hearing in which the completion of all work required for the sale of the lots was confirmed.

The Board held informational hearings for two subdivisions and a site plan review. Applications have not yet been submitted for these subdivisions and site plan.

The Board also continued work on the Master Plan, including both the distribution of a survey of town residents and a proposal for updates to the sign ordinance. Copies of the survey results are available from the Planning board. Work on updating the Master Plan focused on protecting groundwater, identified as a major concern in virtually of all surveys returned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mason Planning Board

AUDITOR'S REPORT - 1995

I have audited all Town departments budgeted or assigned financial responsibilities in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and their financial statements reflect an accurate assessment of the Town's financial position.

Respectfully submitted,

David Lloyd Evans
Town Auditor

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

There have been twenty-three (23) Building Permits issued during 1996. They were issued for the following: (and the total valuation is also listed):

8	Permanent Dwelling	430,707
1	Addition to Home	9,000
4	Porch or Deck Attached to Home	33,125
1	New Chimney Attached to Home	3,000
1	Finish 2nd floor of Home	14,000
3	Barn	24,114
1	Barn Addition	3,000
1	Garage	4,596
1	Garage Addition to Home	7,000
2	Septic Repair	<u>6,000</u>
		534,542

Of the eight permanent dwellings, two were renewal permits and one was for a mobile home. There have been nine Oil Burner Permits issued. A permit is required for installing and operating oil burning equipment which includes replacement oil burners and/or oil tanks. The House and Waterhole Numbering System is continually being upgraded. This year I will have to visit more homes to verify residences. Also the master map will have to be updated. This work has not been done since the system was first started in 1976. It would be more beneficial if all residents would use their correct house numbers.

I hold Office Hours at the Mann House on Tuesday evenings by appointment. Please call 878-2894 for your appointment.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth B. Wilson
Building Inspector

REPORT of the WILTON RECYCLING CENTER

With most of the figures in at the time of this writing, it looks like the total tonnage handled rose from 3,004 in 1995 to 3,741 in 1996 - an increase of sixteen percent. The per capita cost of trash disposal increased from \$17.47 in 1995 to \$21.28 in 1996. The two biggest factors here look to be lower market prices and a huge increase in the use of our landfill dumpsters - up twenty-two percent. The good news is that our ratio of recycled materials to non-recycled rose from thirty-five percent in 1995 to thirty-seven percent in 1996.

With the continued cooperation of the Wilton Selectmen, the folks at the Town Office, the Wilton Highway Department, and those who use the Center, we look forward to a pleasant and productive 1997.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Pao
Manager

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

On April 1, 1996, our new communications center took over from Base 500, which closed their emergency dispatch center. The change over went fairly smooth, with a lot of phone calls between myself, Scott Quilty (Base 500), and Art Durette (Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department). I would like to thank Scott for his continued help.

We have purchased and installed the new overhead doors approved at the 1996 Town Meeting. There is a noticeable drop in the heat loss with the new doors.

This year as always, the department members handled many of the minor repairs and some maintenance on the equipment and apparatus at no cost to the department. Thanks to everyone for their help.

The department members continue to train to handle all sorts of emergencies. Several members took outside training for hazardous materials emergencies. Members also took classes in arson awareness, medical emergencies and radiological monitoring. The department members also trained with the Hollis Rescue Tool (Jaws of Life) so that they would be familiar with the tool if we call Hollis for mutual aid for an auto rescue.

At the 1997 Town Meeting, we are asking that the town start saving money in a capital reserve fund for fire apparatus replacement. The department is looking toward the future when we will need to replace Engine 2, which is a 1972 Ford/Farrer. This truck has served the town well and we hope it will continue to serve for several more years.

On December 7, 1996, the town was hit with a heavy wet snow storm, that knocked out power for about four days. The Mason Fire Department was on standby for four days, with the Fire Station being open for heat, showers, shelter, water and hot meals. I would like to thank all the Emergency Service Personnel who made this possible.

I would like to thank the Fire Department Officers for their help during the year. Also, thanks to all the Emergency Service Personnel and their families for their help. Thanks also to "Chief Bob" and the Police Department, Road agent Curt Dunn and the Highway Department, and Barbara Milkovits and the Mason Selectmen for their help and support.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Cook

Fire Chief

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRST RESPONDERS

Another year has passed and we continue to grow. We have added four new EMTs to our roster, they are: John Dube, Donna Richardson, Stuart Sherman, and Cindy Tibbetts. Congratulations!

As the American Heart Association has shown early defibrillation to be an important component in the "Chain of Survival", I would like to thank you for voting in the purchase of a cardiac defibrillator. We have used the defibrillator on several calls for monitoring patient's cardiac activity. This can

provide valuable information to the doctors upon our arrival at the emergency room. As yet, we have not had to use it in its defibrillating capacity, and personally, I hope we never have the need to.

We continue to have monthly training sessions with Brookline Ambulance Service in an effort to provide the townspeople with the best possible service. We appreciate B.A.S.'s consistent willingness to work with us, and their director, Wes Whittier, for his assistance in answering the many questions we throw at him.

As many of our calls require the assistance of the fire and police, I would like to publicly thank the members of both departments under the direction of Dave Cook and Bob Malboeuf, respectively. Their time, effort, and expertise provide us with a safer environment in which we can provide the medical care needed as quickly as possible.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the First Responders. Their dedication, caring and concern are what makes this service work.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Greenwood
First Responder Coordinator

TRAINING

1038	man-hours department training
420	man-hours (3) members completed firefighter level one training
140	man-hours (2) members completed firefighter career level training
80	man-hours (5) members completed haz-mat decon training
24	man-hours (6) officers completed arson awareness training
<u>216</u>	man-hours of department officer training
1918	man-hours Total Training hours

1996 FIRE CALLS

Assist Police	1	Mutual Aid received	7	Mutual Aid given	7
Alarm Activation	2	Brush Fires	2	Auto Accidents	14
Smoke Investigation	2	Chimney Fires	1	Tree on Power Lines	3
Special Service	2	Lost Person	1	Oil Leak	1
Structure Fire	1	CO Detector Activation	2		
Total Calls	40	Total Man Hours	603		

Storm Standby 1 (man-hours for storm standby approx. 300)

1996 MEDICAL CALLS

Abdominal Pain	2	Anxiety Attack	1	Allergic Reaction	1
Behavioral	1	Breathing Difficulty	3	Burns	1
Chest Pain	6	Dizziness	2	Doctor Ordered Transport	1
Domestic Violence	1	Fall	4	Fire Standby	2
Flu	1	Hand Injury	1	Head Laceration	1
Hypertension	1	Medication Reaction	2	Motor Vehicle Accident	6
Poisoning	1	Police Standby	2	Seizure	2
Shortness of Breath	1	Swollen Leg	1	Unresponsive	2
Total Calls:	46				

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In cooperation with the Planning Board, the Commission is working on a Water Resource Management and Protection Plan as part of Mason's Master Plan update. This Plan will identify the town's surface and ground water resources, where and what types of potential pollution sources there may be, and what steps can be taken to protect water. Help will be needed to do a "windshield survey" identifying land uses and potential pollution sources. Please contact the Commission if you are interested.

One potential water pollution concern has been removed. The buried gasoline tanks at the former Mason General Store in the center of town were taken out this fall. Although at the time of this writing, the Department of Environmental Services had not done a full review of the consultant's report on this tank removal, the report's conclusion looked good, according to a DES staff member.

State law requires that all buried gasoline tanks larger than 110 gallons and all buried oil tanks larger than 1,100 gallons be registered with the state, even if they are not being used. A tank is considered to be buried if more than 10% of it is underground. Failure to register an underground fuel storage tank can result in fines of \$20,000. Fines are not levied if abandoned tanks are removed. If contamination is observed when tanks are removed, the state has a fund (146-D) that can be used for clean-up.

Most of the conservation budget was used for Railroad Trail maintenance, such as repairs to vandalized gates and restoration of washed-out areas. Many thanks to Curt Dunn and his crew for their work, and to the Wilton-Lyndeborough Winter Wanderers Snowmobile Club for their help, too. Thanks also to Chief Malboeuf and his officers for their vigilance and enforcement of fines for driving on the Railroad Trail.

The boundaries of the lands protected through the New Hampshire Land Conservation Investment Program were maintained and blazed, with cost reimbursement from the state. This includes the 163 acre Spaulding Brook Town Conservation Land, and the conservation easements on private lands granted by Ted Stewart, and Ken and Frances Doonan.

Two parcels of conservation land have been selectively cut under the direction of forester Bill Downs. The large old trees were removed to make growing room for the remaining trees. The money that the Commission has realized from these timber sales is planned for long term conservation projects, including trail improvements on existing conservation lands, and the acquisition of new conservation land as opportunity may arise. The input for the Master Plan Survey indicated that people have a strong interest in conserving land, so saving the timber income for this purpose supports the intentions of the townspeople.

Along with neighboring towns such as Milford and Peterborough, the Commission contributed toward the acquisition of the old growth Sheldrick Forest in West Wilton, which was a conservation project of nationwide interest. Trails now under construction in this unusual forest will be open to our residents to use.

With the help of students Marisa Steinberg, Matt Youngblood, and Naomi and Devan Fletcher, the Commission has laid out a nature trail on the Conservation Land at Mason Brook Marsh in the center of town. A guide booklet will be prepared to help elementary students to use this nature trail. This trail will include a boardwalk. In November we received our Wetlands Permit to construct the boardwalk, which requires that work be done in times of low water level. We plan to build the boardwalk this coming summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Conservation Commission

HOME HEALTH CARE and COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

Report to the Town of Mason January 1, 1996 - December 31, 1996 Annual Report

In 1996, Home Health Care and Community Services (HCS) continued to provide home care and community services to the residents of Mason. The following information represents a projection of Home Health Care and Community Services' activities in your community in 1996. The projection is based on actual services provided from January through September 1996 and an estimate of usage during October, November and December.

SERVICE REPORT

<u>Services Offered</u>	<u>Services Provided</u>
Nursing	84 Visits
Physical Therapy	9 Visits
Speech Pathology	0 Visits
Occupational Therapy	0 Visits
Homemaker	0 Hours
Home Health Aide	112 Visits
Medical Social Work	0 Visits
Child Health Program	0 Visits
Children Outreach	0 Visits
Nutritionist	0 Visits
Total Unduplicated Residents Served:	18

Regularly scheduled wellness clinics, child health clinics, prenatal and hospice care are also available to residents. Town funding partially supports these services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The actual cost of all services provided in 1996 with all funding sources is projected to be \$12,423.53.

These services have been supported to the greatest extent possible by Medicare, Medicaid, other insurances, grants and patient fees. Services that were not covered by other funding have been supported by your town.

For 1997, we recommend an appropriation of \$1,500.00 to continue home care services at the current level.

Thank you for your consideration.

MASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

This was a banner year for the library since we were able, thanks to the generous support of the town, to begin offering access to a computer, fax machine, CD-ROM player, and copy machine. A number of townspeople have enjoyed the opportunity to obtain immediate and timely information via the Internet. In September we offered a program to introduce the new computer system and to identify local interests and training needs. By making their expert assistance available at the library on Tuesday nights this fall, Lynn Costello and Peter McCann have taught a number of people the essentials of computer use and Internet searching. We especially appreciate the far-reaching efforts of our librarian, Diana LeBlanc, who was able to get the new computer and network access up and running, while at the same time keeping the library running smoothly.

The library was pleased to offer a number of entertaining and informative programs this year. Storyteller Roberta Woolfson kicked off our summer reading program in June by providing entertainment supported by funds from our town budget that were matched by a grant from the New Hampshire State Library and the Arts Council. Our thanks go to Pam Steinberg and Diana LeBlanc for writing the winning grant proposal. The library was sponsor for a writing workshop this summer, with poet Jim Kates leading participants through exercises designed to unleash creativity and imagination. Twenty-three children participated in "Reading - The Best Game Around," a companion theme to this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta. The library was pleased to sponsor a Poetry Contest again this year. Organized by Linda Martin-Berke and Diana LeBlanc, the contest brought many fine entries that were published in the book, Flights. First-prize winner was Marilyn Otterson, with her poem entitled "Lying on My Back." There are only a few more copies available for purchase at the library. Completing the year, Ben Morse of Natick, Massachusetts, made the trek to town on December 6, the beginning of the snowstorm that left many without electricity for a week. Ben provided a lively, warm evening of song and story that was fun for all.

1996 was a year of change for the library. We regret the resignation of our library aide, Sue Wolpert, who left for family reasons. We were fortunate to find Denise Ginzler for the post. Denise has a special interest in programming for preschoolers, and has been a big help to Diana in offering the preschool Story Hour programs in the fall and spring. As usual, the December story and crafts program at the library for the Greening of Mason had a full house.

The Trustees sponsored several fundraising projects that raised money for books and library services. With much help from Sue Wolpert, Betty Chapman, and Diana LeBlanc, we held our annual Bake Sale and Used Book Sale in June. We would like to express our gratitude to all who give of their time and money and donate used books and audiovisual materials to help our library. We again give special thanks to Pam Steinberg and Betty Chapman for their wonderful efforts on behalf of the library. If you haven't visited the library for awhile, perhaps it's time to come in and see what's new and visit with old friends.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bette Lewicke
Linda Martin Berke
Mary Calderan*

Library Trustees

MASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1996

January 1, 1996 Account balance	8,129.43
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Receipts:

Town appropriation	22,485.00
Donations for books, etc.	72.00
Fund-raising	385.60
Whitaker-Locke Trust Fund interest	586.54
Fines & lost book fees	82.44
Program grants	159.75
NOW Account interest	34.71
Warrant Article #12 for public access computer	3,500.00

Expenditures:

Salaries	16,179.80
Payroll tax	1,237.80
Workers Comp	60.00
Continuing education	25.00
Dues & fees	511.00
Postage	75.00
Programming	569.48
Supplies	435.37
Telephone	490.28
Travel	214.40

Library Materials:

Books	2,766.33
Periodicals	404.70
Audio/Visual	0.00
Warrant Article #12 for public access computer	3,498.27
Other computer expenses	54.48
Investments	6,525.00

Returned to Town General Fund	486.13
December 31, 1996 Account balance	1,902.43

OPERATIONS STATISTICS

	<u>Catalogued books</u>	<u>Pbk. Books</u>	<u>A-V</u>
Added to collection	398	52	91
Lost and withdrawn	312	270	6
Total collection	8,846	1,212	461
Added by donation	158	52	91
Added by purchase	240	0	0
Total registered borrowers	562		
Library programs	28		
Program participants	275		
Items borrowed from library	8,825		
<u>Interlibrary loans:</u>			
Borrowed from other libraries	249		
Lent to other libraries	60		

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY TRUSTEES

The year 1996 was another busy one on the cemeteries with more progress on the new addition to Prospect Hill Cemetery. Along with the regular maintenance of mowing, fertilizing, and raking, we are working on getting the new addition ready for use.

On the new addition, the road has been two-thirds excavated and we are ready to install bounds. As soon as these are in place, lots will be available for sale.

The fence on the new addition and the one on Pratt Annex were both painted in 1996. We plan to install a new iron gate on Pleasant View Cemetery. This will be similar to the new gate on Pole Hill Cemetery on Brookline Road.

The new mower and blower have helped to cut the cost of maintenance.

Wolfgang Millbrandt is retiring from the Cemetery Trustees this year. We thank him for ten years of service.

Respectfully submitted,
Wolfgang Millbrandt
Wallace Brown
Arthur Rafter
Cemetery Trustees



DEATHS and/or BURIALS in the TOWN of MASON for the year ending December 31, 1996

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
Aug. 6, 1995	Robert E. Morley	Mason	Prospect Hill
Apr. 25, 1996	Joan McGinnis	Mason	Cremated
June 16	Robert G. Currier, Sr.	Mason	Cremated
Aug. 21	Suoma M. W. Durant	Shirley, MA	Prospect Hill
Aug. 31	Marion R. Spear	Mason	Prospect Hill
Oct. 3	Stella Grondin	Somerville, MA	Prospect Hill

MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the TOWN of MASON
for the year ending December 31, 1996

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Married by</u>
Jan. 28	Donald G. Jones, Jr. Carol A. Cormier	Mason	Donald E. Clinton Clergy
Apr. 19	Philip J. Giarizzo Jennifer Sawyer	Mason	Carl W. Chandler Justice of the Peace
July 28	Todd S. Churley Cheryl L. Simon Clinton	Township, MI	Charlotte N. Hastings Justice of the Peace
Aug. 18	Paul M. Chasseur Ann-Marie Kramer	Mason	Charlotte N. Hastings Justice of the Peace
Aug. 24	Demerson R. Soares Jennifer McCabe	Stoneham, MA	Charlotte N. Hastings Justice of the Peace
Sept. 13	Kristian G. Heikkila Kathryn A. Andres	Mason	Jane B. Duguay Justice of the Peace
Oct. 5	Francis P. Gavin, Jr. Robin A. Vizena	Mason	Bonnie C. Evans Clergy
Dec. 31	Gregg R. Jeffrey Heidi E. Ayer	Mason	Beth A. Aborn Justice of the Peace



BIRTHS in the TOWN of MASON
for the year ending December 31, 1996

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Parents</u>
Feb. 27	Bridgit M. Crory	St. Joseph Nashua	Jean F. Mueller James A. Crory
Apr. 30	Benjamin J. Anderson	Monadnock Peterborough	Kimberly A. Washburn Eric D. Anderson
July 7	Emily A. Aster	Southern NH Regional Nashua	Lisa M. Brown Arthur D. Aster
Aug. 12	Frank L. Cadwell IV	Southern NH Regional Nashua	Heidi D. Van De Carr Frank L. Cadwell III



REPORT OF THE MASON FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Over the past year the Mason Forestry Committee, together with the Mason Conservation Commission, had tax map lots E-28 and E-38 selectively thinned. During the thinning operation, select mature and low quality pine and hardwood were removed, leaving a healthy stand of high quality crop trees for future growth. In an effort to increase the food source and browse for local wildlife, special attention was taken to promote the release of nut producing trees such as oak and hickory. The committee employed Downs Forestry Services to prepare the lots for thinning and then to supervise the field work. The timber products were inventoried and put out to bid to local lumber mills and timber buyers. The winning bid was \$33,911.29 and the project was awarded to Monadnock Forest Products, Inc. of Jaffrey, NH. The field work started last winter and was finished this summer. The Town also collected an additional \$3319.13 for the yield tax on the project.

In the future, the Mason Forestry Committee plans to continue its efforts to manage the Town's forest assets for multiple use purposes, including timber production, wildlife habitat enhancement and recreation.

Respectfully submitted,
Mason Forestry Committee

TOWN MEETING March 12, 1996

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. The Town Clerk read the warrant through Article 1.

Polls were declared open at 12:00 noon. Checklist total was 707. Polls were closed at 7:00 pm, after 170 had voted. There were eight absentee voters.

Results were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years:	Anne Richards	149
Moderator for 2 years:	Catherine Schwenk	152
Town Clerk for 3 years:	Charlotte N. Hastings	153
Treasurer for 3 years:	Jeanne L. Hamel	144
Tax collector for 3 years:	Charlotte N. Hastings	154
Auditor for 1 year:		
Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years:	Linda M. LeBlanc	160
Library Trustee for 3 years:	Mary Calderan	153
Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years:	Arthur J. Rafter	165
Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years: (Write in)	James Losee	15
Ballot vote on provisions of RSA 40:13	Yes 23 No 146	

The meeting was re-opened at 8:00 pm. Mrs. Schwenk reviewed the procedure we would follow. Note was made of the fire and emergency exits. Reverend Bonnie C. Evans gave the invocation. New Eagle Scouts Benjamin and Luke Dube led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Schwenk expressed the Town's appreciation to Shirley Morley for more than 17 years of service to the Town as Supervisor of the Checklist and several years as Selectman. Mr. Schwenk expressed thanks to Curt Dunn and the Selectmen for their help in the recent Klondike Derby. Badges were presented to Mr. Dunn and the Selectmen.

Reference was made to the fact that the Town Reports were not available as required by RSA 40:4. A motion was made, seconded and passed to continue with the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to waive the reading of the Warrant.

State Senator Thomas P. Stawasz and State Representative Jeffrey C. MacGillivray brought greetings from the Legislature.

Note was made of the following errors or omissions in the Town Report.

Page 18 under Warrant Articles 1996, add # 12 Library Computer \$3500.

The correct total of the 1996 Warrant Articles should be \$59,378.

Page 22 under Summary of Valuation, under Public Utilities, scratch out "NET".

Page 6 under Ballot Clerks, add Florence Wilson and March 1998.

Page 14 under appropriations for Highway Maintenance, add \$2000 for Over Time Wages, which changes the total appropriations to \$236,185.

Page 12 under Library, add copy machine \$460, new total \$22,485.

Article 2, scratch the word "and" in the amount to be raised.

Article 2. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or borrowing or otherwise, the sum of Seven Hundred One Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$701,467) for the operation and expenses of the Town for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing, or take any other action relative thereto.

Mrs. Schwenk proceeded to review the line items of the budget. Mrs. Lewicke explained the need of the copier for the library and how the cost would be covered by users. Mr. Larochelle questioned why the appropriation for the Conservation Commission was cut from \$1500 to \$150. Note was made of the \$33,000 that they had received from tree cutting. Mrs. Fletcher explained where that money will be used and the future plans of the Commission. A request was made that they make an accounting of their expenses during the year. A motion was made by Mrs. Fletcher and seconded by Mr. Larochelle to restore the \$1500 to the Conservation Commission. This motion passed.

Mrs. Godjikian questioned the legal expenses and inquired whether or not any of said fees were for the conflict with Mascenic, over late school payments. The fees were for 1994 and 1995 other legal expenses. No payments have been made to date on legal fees pertaining to Mascenic.

Mr. Lewicke questioned the \$400 expense for Alcohol and Drug Testing. A motion was made by Mr. Lewicke and seconded by Mrs. Lewicke that \$400, in the Highway Department Budget for Drug Testing, be removed. Further moved that the Selectmen send a letter to the State Department attempting to mandate this expenditure, protesting the violation of Article 28A (unfunded mandates) and protesting their unwarranted invasion of the privacy and civil rights of our Town employees. This motion failed to pass.

Article 2. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$705,277 for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing. This included an increase in the Library of \$460, in the Conservation Commission of \$1350 and \$2000 in the Highway Overtime Wages. The vote was unanimous.

Article 3. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,352 for the second payment of the lease for the Highway Department's dump truck as voted for at Town Meeting, March 1995. The vote was unanimous.

Article 4. The Town voted to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that lease agreement for the purpose of leasing a 1996 GMC vehicle for the Police Department. The vote was unanimous.

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9900 for the second payment of the ten self contained breathing air packs and spare bottles as voted for at Special Town Meeting, September 1995. The vote was unanimous.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8000 to replace overhead doors at the Fire Station.

A motion made by Mrs. Richards that Articles 7 & 8 be discussed together, but voted separately. Mr. Cook led the discussion on the possible uses and benefits of owning a Defibrillator. Pros and cons were stated as to using the trust fund for this purchase.

Article 7. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to withdraw the amount of six Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$6950) from the Ellen Augusta Worcester Wilson Trust Fund for the purchase of a Defibrillator and assorted accessories and service warranty, or take any other action relative thereto. This article failed to pass.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6950 for the purchase of a Defibrillator and assorted accessories and service warranty.

Article 9. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1926.32 from surplus. These amounts received in 1995 from the sale of Highway Department equipment to be added to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. The vote was unanimous.

Article 10. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw the amount of \$6000 from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a sander body. The vote was unanimous.

Article 11. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw \$5000 from the Cemetery Land Improvement Fund for the purpose of installing lot markers and starting gravel roads in the new cemetery. The vote was unanimous.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3500) to purchase a computer with multimedia capability laser printer, fax machine, telephone installation and service charges, and fees for one year of dialup modem access to the Internet for the Mason Public Library, or take any other action relative thereto. Mrs. Lewicke explained the purpose, benefits and possible uses for the computer. Many comments were shared of the possible telephone expenses, how the use would be monitored, the lack of parking and if a fee should be charged for those using the Internet.

Article 12 passed on a standing vote. 55 Yes, 34 No.

Article 13. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2600 for the purchase of a lawn tractor mower to be used for cemetery, town common, and recreational field work.

Article 14. The town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1000 for the purchase of a combination printer, fax, copier and scanner for the Police Department.

Article 15. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150.00 from surplus. These amounts received in 1995 from the sale of cemetery lots, to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Fund.

Article 16. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department.

Article 17. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment and vehicles from the Fire Department.

We adjourned at 10:03 pm. Sine Dai
Charlotte N. Hastings, Town clerk

State General Election November 5, 1996

The Moderator called the meeting to order. She reviewed the newer registration laws and expressed thanks to all of the workers.

Polls were declared open at 11:00 am. There were 710 on the checklist. This included 264 Republicans, 125 Democrats, 5 Libertarians and 316 Undeclared.

Polls were closed at 7:24 pm after 548 had voted. This included 23 absentee voters. Total checklist at closing was 732. There are now 267 Republicans, 127 Democrats, 5 Libertarians and 333 Undeclared on the checklist. We had a 75% turnout.

President:	Dole	213	Clinton	245	Brown	11	Phillips	0	Perot	73
Governor:	Lamontagne	215	Shaheen	285	Kingsbury	14	Bramante	29		
Senator:	Smith	262	Swett	218	Blevens	56				
Congressman:	Bass	266	Arnesen	233	Kendel	7	Lamirande	27		
Exec. Councilor:	Streeter	424								
State senate:	Squires	280	Ouellette	235						
Rep. District 20:	Arnold	225	Hall	322	Jacques	160				
Rep. District 21:	MacGillvray	287	Flanagan	212						

County results are on record at the Secretary of State's office.
Charlotte N. Hastings Town Clerk

State Biennial Primary September 10, 1996

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk, and the polls were declared open at 10:04 am. Reference was made to voter registration and change of party status. Checklist total 721, which included 277 Republicans, 121 Democrats, 7 Libertarians and 316 Undeclared.

Polls were closed at 7:10 pm after 153 had voted. There were 3 absentee voters. Checklist total 722, which included 292 Republicans, 145 Democrats, 7 Libertarians and 278 Undeclared.

Results were as follows:

	Republican		Democrat		Libertarian
Governor:	Zeliff	47	Shaheen	35	Rothhaus 6
	Lamontagne	37			
Representative in Congress	Bass	51	Arnesen	38	
	Hammond	31			
U.S. Senator	Smith	79	Rauh	20	Blevens 3
			Swett	26	
Executive Councilor	Eaton	47			
	Streeter	32			
State Senate	Squires	38	Ouellette	35	
	Gagnon	49			
Representative District 20	Arnold	64	Hall	34	
			Jacques	21	
Representative District 21	MacGillvray	73	Flanagan	34	
Sheriff	Morse	48			

The rest of the county officers are on file with the Secretary of State's office.
Charlotte N. Hastings, Town Clerk

Presidential Primary February 20, 1996

The meeting was called to order by Selectman Anne Richards. She declared the polls open at 10:10 am. Checklist total was 704, which included 271 Republicans, 131 Democrats, 10 Libertarians and 292 Undeclared. 340 voted. 267 Republicans (9 absentees), 65 Democrats (2 absentees), and 8 Libertarians. The turnout was 47%.

President:

Republican Race:	Lamar Alexander	49	Patrick J. Buchanan	61
	"Bob" Dole	67	"Steve" Forbes	48
	"Phil" Gramm	2	Alan L. Keyes	8
	Richard G. Lugar	20	"Morry" Taylor	4
Democrat Race:	"Bill" Clinton	53		
Libertarian Race:	Harry Browne	4		

Complete information is on file at the Secretary of State's office. At the end of voting, the breakdown was as follows: 356 Republicans, 148 Democrats, 11 Libertarians and 208 Undeclared.

Polls were closed at 7:07 pm.
Charlotte N. Hastings Town Clerk

200 Years Ago in Mason

March 1796 Town Meeting : Joseph Barrett chosen state representative
1796 Moderator: Benjamin Mann
Town Clerk: Joseph Barrett
Selectmen: Joseph Barrett, Benjamin Mann, Timothy Dakin
Treasurer: Joseph Barrett

1796 Census

Deaths: 10, one of which was over 70 years of age
Marriages: 8 (marriages preformed by Reverend William Eliot)
Births:

Amos Blood	5/6/96	Amos & Sara Blood
John Buss	11/14/96	Elisha Buss & Polly Mann
Leonard Dakin	5/8/96	Amos Dakin & Mary Kingsley
Samuel Eliot	3/22/96	William Eliot & Rebecca Hildredth
Betsy Eaton	10/30/96	Abijah Eaton & Elizabeth
Russell Green	1/14/96	Samuel Green & Molly Swallow
Zebulon Jefts	5/22/96	Thomas Jefts & Abigail Barrett
Jessey Marion	2/17/96	Abraham Marion Jr. & Hannah
Sally Marion	11/5/96	Ezra Marion & Susanna Elliott
Hannah Russell	4/14/97	Hubert Russell & Sarah Warren
Oliver Scripture	10/10/96	James Scripture & Sibbel Shepley
Eda Tarbell	11/25/96	Edward Tarbell & Rachel Hildredth

Excerpt from 1796 Town Report

"Order to pay Captain Joseph Barrett \$4.19 it being so much he paid at Hopkinton Court in December 1796, with his own money, for a lawyer to speak respecting North road, to our petition, for entering said petition, and for being recognized twice at said courts and for expenses of myself and horse."

It must be admitted that, for all the items, it was a very moderate bill. This is the first time the federal currency appears in the town's accounts.

Clifton Hastings

One August day in 1965, Clifton W. Hastings moved his family -- wife Charlotte and six children -- to an old farmhouse in Mason, N.H. For Charlotte and the kids, the small town of not quite 300 people was terribly quiet. But for Cliff, the move signified coming home to New Hampshire after so many years of traveling the world.

Cliff was born in North Conway, N.H., on May 17, 1924, to Edward M. and Ella (Peters) Hastings. Before graduating from high school in 1942, he had also lived in Henniker, Londonderry and Boscawen. The U.S. was already deep into World War II when he joined the U.S. Navy in 1942. He served in the South Pacific, and remained in the Navy until 1949.

He had decided he had seen enough of the Navy, but wanted to remain in the service. So the logical choice was to join the U.S. Army. While in the Army, he served tours in Korea and Vietnam, and taught at the Army Security Agency school in Ft. Devens. He also served in Arlington Hall, Va.; Ft. Meade, Md.; and Ft. Richardson, Alaska.

Cliff and Charlotte picked Mason as the place to "retire" because it was in New Hampshire, and also close to Fort Devens. He served one more year in the Army, retiring in 1966 as Chief Warrant Officer 3. He joined the civilian job force by becoming manager of the Christie & Thomson auto parts store in Jaffrey.

Anyone who lives in a small town knows what it takes to make the town work: lots of volunteer sweat. Cliff jumped right in to do his share. He joined the Conservation Commission in 1967, and then the Mason Fire Department in 1968. For almost 30 years, he took care of the Sparks Club, one of the department's major fund-raising efforts. He also served on the Planning Board, the Forestry Committee, with emergency services, was a selectman for 8 years and was on the Board of Adjustment. Not able to leave the military behind completely, he also became parade commander for Mason's annual Memorial Day parade.

He was a member of the Mason Congregational Church, where he was a member of the Board of Trustees, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, was on two search committees for new ministers, and taught Sunday school for children in grades 6-8 and high school for 20 years. Some of his students still keep in touch with him today, some in person, some by writing. Last Easter, one of his former students wrote to him: "The greatest thing you taught me was to love myself and to help make the world a better place. I know even on your bad days you still tried to help someone."

Of course, life wasn't all work. He and Charlotte also were members of the Wolf Rockers square dance club, and made it to most of Mason's small-town functions, fire department suppers and summer parties, and church functions. His stamp collection now has between 5,000 and 10,000 entries, of which perhaps half have been cataloged.

After retiring from Christie & Thomson in 1986, his work for the town and church seemed to take over. "I don't know how I found time to work before," he says. "I never learned how to say no." But he also admits that he enjoyed the work, especially teaching Sunday School and helping children learn more about themselves.

Time hasn't slowed Cliff down any. Five of his children have grown and gone; one, Scott, died in 1984. His 10 grandchildren and 6 step-grandchildren help keep him busy. Until recently, he was still running the Sparks Club and operated the radio when the fire department had to respond to a fire call. In fact, Fire Chief David Cook won't let him retire from the department.

One of his grandchildren interviewed Cliff for a school paper. In her conclusion, she wrote, "My most significant revelation would have to be having the opportunity to know my grandfather better and to learn more about the life that he lived. It made me appreciate the special person that he is."

We heartily agree.

